

From: Harrington B. Laufman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:58am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello Department of Justice,

To assess the impact of the Microsoft software monopoly one only has to look at the areas of information technology where competition still exists. Today's cheapest off-the-shelf PC boasts hardware that ten years ago was called a super computer, and at ¼ the price.

Processor speeds and efficiency has increased over a 100 fold. Disk capacity has increased over 50 fold. Random access memory is pennies per megabyte rather than dollars. Hardware capacity is now ahead of the demands of all but the most extreme hobbyist. The cost of this fantastic hardware is affordable by almost anyone.

Can we say the same for software? A resounding ?No!?.

In fact many in the IT field note that software has degraded under the Microsoft monopoly. ?Bloat ware? is common as the advances in hardware compensate for poor programming and software design.

Office productivity software is stagnant, buggy, and unreliable. Questionable ?ease of use? features are the only changes with new versions. The price of these functionally stale packages is flat or rising.

The only pockets of software innovation are in the Open Source development, the Linux operating system, rogue applications like Napster and Gnutella, and the edgier side of gaming.

In spite of the disingenuous proclamations otherwise, Microsoft's monopoly has set software development back 20 years.

For another eye opener, try to calculate the lost productivity caused by the exploitations of Microsoft's software security flaws. Fundamentally poor design decisions, sloppy programming, and a rush-to-market philosophy, have put everyone who uses a Microsoft equipped PC at risk of losing dozens of hours of work simply by reading their e-mail.

This level of inferior product would not be tolerated in any other consumer area.

Regards,
Harry

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